

CA1
EA 83
-85R81

Agence **GOVT**
développement international

Government
Publications



Country Profile

Rwanda

Canada

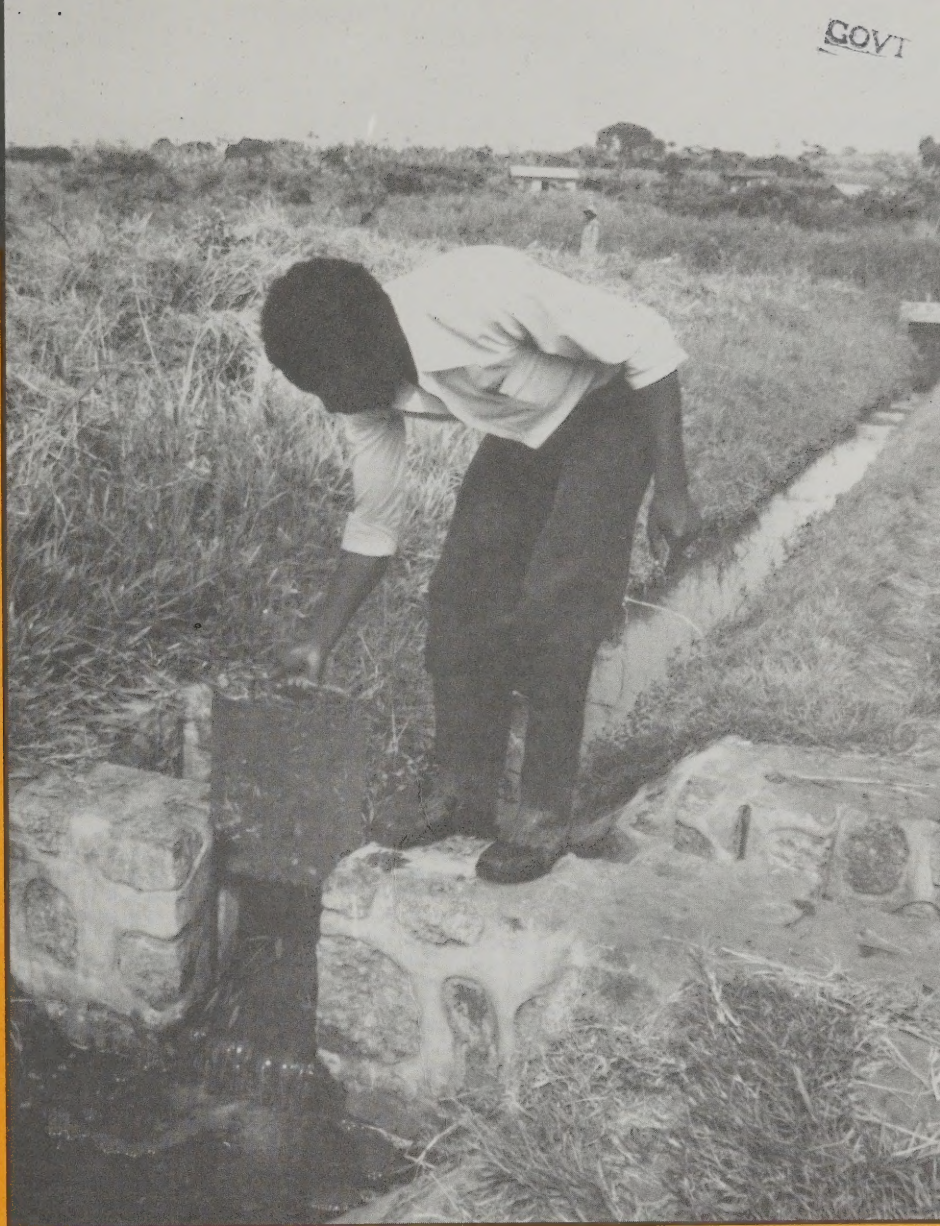
Canadian International
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de
développement international

CAI
EA 83
85R81

Government
Publications

①



Country Profile

Rwanda

Canada



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2022 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761115525578>

COUNTRY PROFILE

Official name	Republic of Rwanda
Capital	Kigali
Topography	varied relief, high eastern plateau, volcanic massif in the north, central region of lakes and hills
Climate	equatorial but tempered by altitude, several micro-climates, with two rainy seasons and two dry seasons
Principal crops	bananas, green beans, sorghum, sweet potatoes, tea and coffee
Resources	mining, water
Official languages	Kinyarwanda, French
Other languages spoken	Swahili
Ethnic groups	Hutu (90%), Tutsi (9%)
Religions	Animism (50%), Christianity, and Islam
Date of independence	July 1, 1962
Proclamation of the Second Republic	July 5, 1975

COMPARATIVE DATA

	<u>RWANDA</u>	<u>CANADA</u>
Area	26,388 sq km	9,976,139 sq km
Population (1983)	5.7 million	24.9 million
Population density	198 people per sq km	2.4 people per sq km
Population growth rate (1973-83)	3.4%	1.2%
Urbanization	5%	75%
Life expectancy at birth (1983)	47 years	76 years
Infant mortality rate	125 per 1,000 live births	9 per 1,000 live births

<u>COMPARATIVE DATA</u>	<u>RWANDA</u>	<u>CANADA</u>
Daily per capita calorie supply as percentage of requirements (1983)	95	129
Adult literacy rate	23%	99%
Primary school enrolment as % of age group (1982)	70%	104%
boys	72%	105%
girls	67%	103%
Percentage of labour force in		
agriculture	91%	5%
industry	2%	29%
services	7%	66%
% of population of under 15	46.6% (1980)	23.2%
Gross national product per capita (1983)	US \$270	US \$12,310
Annual growth of GNP (1965-83)	2.3%	2.5%
Average inflation rate (1973-1983)	11.2%	9.4%
External public debt as % of GNP	13.9%	1.35%
Debt service as % of GNP	0.3%	4.96%
Current account balance (\$US)	-\$49 million	\$1380 million
Principal exports	coffee, tea, cassiterite, wolfram	
Principal imports	consumer goods (textiles, shoes, food), transport equipment, construction materials, chemical products, plastics	
Principal trading partners: States,	Belgium, Luxemburg, Malaysia, United States, Italy, United Kingdom, Japan, Kenya, Federal Republic of Germany, France.	
Exports to Canada	N.A.	
Imports from Canada	N.A.	

Source: World Development Report, 1985, World Bank.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

Review of the Canadian Program

Canadian cooperation with Rwanda began in 1963 with a private initiative by Father Georges-Henri Lévesque. He laid the groundwork for what was to become the National University of Rwanda (UNR). Technical and financial support to the UNR was the first Canadian bilateral intervention in Francophone Africa.

Development of human resources was long the major and most consistent focus of Canadian intervention in Rwanda. Dominated by support for the UNR, this focus is today complemented by a series of interventions at the grass roots level conducted by Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or financed by Mission-Administered Funds (MAF). Of all the other sectors, agriculture is the one that has shown the greatest development over the last few years.

The decision to raise Rwanda to core-country status was made in 1981. Prior to that date, Canadian assistance had consisted principally of a series of ad hoc interventions.

Since 1963, nearly 150 Canadian projects, with expenditures totalling \$79.5 million, have been implemented in Rwanda. The education sector predominates. The UNR bilateral project alone accounted for 69.3 per cent of the total expenditures. With respect to special programs and MAFs, the education sector is again the largest, totalling, respectively, 28.2 and 34.5 per cent of the disbursements for these avenues of assistance.

Agricultural and rural development are the object of two major continuing interventions: the provision of food aid and the development of the Mutara valleys. Food aid is provided as required, on the basis of annual foreseeable food deficits. For the last year, however, the emphasis has been on small agricultural-production projects financed by counterpart funds earned from the sale of the food aid products.

The other sectors which have been the object of interventions are: mines, notably the geophysical prospecting project, transportation and communications, particularly the telecommunications and civil aviation projects, and health and water which are major focus of NGO activities, institutional support and forestry training.

The development strategy for current programming is based on:

- increased agricultural productivity;
- support for creation of a solid basis for a self-sustaining industrialization process;
- strengthening resource-management capability;
- support to the program.

The focuses of the current programming, defined in 1984, are the following:

- Rural development, including agriculture and forests. Development of agricultural production and extension work will be given priority. The problems of soil degradation and erosion require special attention.
- Development of local industry. The strategy consists of support for the development of small businesses and cottage industries in the communities.
- Development of human resources, which will support the previous two focuses.
- Overcoming landlocked status.

BILATERAL ASSISTANCE

Agriculture

With its climate and rich soil, Rwanda could have a highly productive agricultural sector. However, because of the population pressure on the arable land, the small size of the farms, soil erosion and often rudimentary and outdated farming techniques, as well as the lack of information, this potential is not at present fully realized.

The government's efforts to settle families in peasant communities in underpopulated regions has had some success; however, the basic problem of increasing the production of export crops and food crops to meet the population growth has yet to be solved.

Food accounts for most of the agricultural production, but it is consumed domestically. Half of the country's land is arable, almost all of which is already under cultivation. Small family farms, averaging about a hectare each, predominate. About 95 per cent of the arable land is devoted to food crops such as bananas, sorghum, peas, beans, corn, cassava, sweet potatoes, peanuts and potatoes. The largest export crop is coffee, followed by tea, pyrethrum and cinchona bark. The government is currently making an effort to diversify its export crops.

CIDA's agricultural assistance program is part of the effort to double Rwanda's agricultural production by the end of the century. The Canadian strategy is to increase agriculture productivity while at the same time countering the demographic increases. The objectives of this program are to promote new agricultural techniques and practices, encourage the development of para-agricultural activities and provide access to special services.

The Mutara rural development project now under way is based on this new orientation. Because of the limited availability of arable land, this project is designed to transform marshlands into farmland. CIDA allocated more than \$13 million for this purpose during the 1982-1984 period. This money was used to reclaim over 450 hectares; some 375 families, mostly young

farmers, are now working this land. The second phase of the project is to prepare a master plan for the development of 80,000 hectares in the Mutara region.

Food Aid

CIDA contributed \$3 million in 1984-1985 in food aid to Rwanda. This program is intended to support the balance of payments and finance small development projects and to offset the deficit in food production which was severely aggravated by the exceptional drought. Under this program, Canada provided 2,500 tonnes of beans and 1,270 tonnes of split peas, in addition to the sea freight to Mombasa, Kenya.

Mines

Rwanda is not a major mining country. Its cassiterite and wolfram exports nevertheless represent important sources of revenue; unfortunately, production has stagnated for about ten years because of the depletion of known deposits and the increase in production costs. The mining sector is controlled by four Belgian companies and the major part of the production is exported to the Common Market and the United States.

CIDA has undertaken a geophysical prospecting project, the purpose of which is to provide a broader and more thorough knowledge of the country's mining potential. Radiometry will be used to make an inventory of the resources. From 1979 to 1986, CIDA will have devoted \$2.6 million to this project.

Forestry

Rwanda's forest resources are very modest but a reforestation campaign is under way. Eucalyptus, mimosa and pimi are used for firewood, for briquettes and for traditional buildings. Forests cover 91,000 hectares, to which should be added the 30,000 hectares reforested. CIDA's agricultural development program in Rwanda integrates the forestry aspect, because of its role in combatting soil erosion.

A new CIDA project for institutional support and forestry training has as its objective to assist in the preservation and improvement of Rwandan forest resources, and thus promote a more balanced growth of the various sectors of the country's economy. The objective of this project is to strengthen Rwandan forest management capacity. A major component of this project includes the training of fellowship holders in Canada in forestry engineering and six in the Ivory Coast in forestry technology. CIDA's contribution to this five-year project amounts to \$6.6 million.

Education

Education is one of the major sectors of the Rwandan development program; it absorbs about a quarter of the total national budget. School enrolment in 1978-79 was estimated at 49.5 per cent. The high population growth rate and the inadequate infrastructures explain the weakness in this area.

Since 1966, public education has been governed by legislation specifying that primary schooling is free and compulsory for children aged seven to thirteen. The educational reform instituted in 1979 extended the duration of the primary level from six to eight years, and broadened basic training by adding a three-year integrated rural and craft program. In 1981, educational reform was extended to the secondary level. The most significant innovation during this initial period was the abolition of the common-core syllabus and the professionalization of all classroom programs. Rwanda has three institutions of higher learning: the Grand séminaire de Nyakibanda, the National University of Rwanda and the Ecole supérieure militaire. In addition to the Rwandan students in these institutions, there are more than 500 expatriate fellowship holders.

From the beginning of its cooperation with Rwanda, CIDA has been obliged to give priority to education. At that time, the lack of senior managers and administrators constituted a serious handicap to the country's development. It was therefore important to train qualified personnel as soon as possible, through a university-level institution adapted to the needs of the country. In 1963, Father Georges-Henri Lèvesque founded this institution, which was later to become the National University of Rwanda. Canada has supported this university from its beginnings by providing aid in the following sectors: technical assistance (professors, administrators); the training of Rwandan counterparts; and the construction of buildings and equipment. The second phase of the project, to which CIDA is contributing \$18 million, for the period from 1979 to 1986, is aimed principally at ensuring that the faculty, programs and teaching methods are controlled by Rwandans.

Communications

Transportation and communications play an essential role in Rwanda because the country is in the middle of a vast continent, over 1,400 kilometres from the sea. To break down Rwanda's barriers, CIDA is providing \$12 million for the expansion and maintenance of a modern, efficient telecommunications system. The project is expected to last from 1982 to 1986 and consists of establishing a radio system linking three of the most important centres of the country with the capital. It also includes supplying peripheral equipment and setting up a program to train Rwandan technicians to operate and maintain the network.

To improve transportation links with places beyond Rwanda's borders, CIDA approved a project to increase the efficiency of Air Rwanda's passenger service. For the sum of \$4.4 million, CIDA supplied Air Rwanda with Canadian equipment including a Twin Otter DHC-6-300 airplane and spare parts, and provided for the construction of a maintenance hangar, the training of six pilots and ten person-months of technical assistance on an as-required basis.

Mission-Administered Funds

Mission-administered Funds (MAFs) are used to finance small projects which promote economic, technical, educational and social development in Rwanda. In 1984-85, the MAF contribution of \$350,000 was used to carry out thirty health, community development and training projects.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Through the Special Programs Branch, CIDA supports the initiatives of Canadian volunteer organizations in Rwanda. These organizations have shown themselves to be an active force. Over the last decade, they carried out nearly sixty projects, with expenditures on the order of \$756,000. Twenty-eight of these projects are currently being implemented. One of them is the water supply project for the commune of Butare, being coordinated by the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. This project has contributed to the well-being of one region of Rwanda and at the same time made the population aware of the basic steps of a preventive health program.

Oxfam-Québec is conducting a program to combat soil erosion. A significant number of NGOs are working quietly at the local level on education and community training projects and, in so doing, are helping to inform, educate and bring together people with common problems and interests.

Two new projects have been added to these. The OCSD has been awarded a four-year project (1985-1989) to establish a centre for the development of ceramics. CIDA's financial contribution to this project is \$687,000. The objective is to improve traditional products used by potters and rural households. The project includes technical assistance, some vehicles, materials, and certain operating expenses to provide artisans with improved methods for firing bricks, tiles and domestic pottery; to use improved stores for greater energy efficiency, and to employ a more rational utilization of fuel wood both among potters and homemakers.

Club 2/3 has received a contribution of \$600,000 to conduct the second phase of a community development project focusing on providing the population with drinking water. It will provide about ten new drinking water supply systems and to develop about fifty small rural springs. To this project will be added extension activities focusing on water hygiene: protection of the water-catchment environment, cleanliness of the water-supply source and containers, and so forth.

MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE

Canada also contributes to United Nations organizations and to other international institutions to finance development programs, emergency aid and the shipment of food aid. Among the institutions active in Rwanda are the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the World Health Organization.

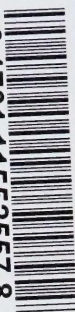
For example, through CIDA, Canada is participating in efforts to reduce the population explosion in Rwanda by about nineteen per cent by contributing financially to international agencies such as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). CIDA also cooperates in the special programs of the International Planned Parenthood Federation and other population-control organizations.

Version française disponible sur demande.

1985

Produced by the Public Affairs Branch
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
200 Promenade du Portage
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0G4

Tel.: (819) 997-5006



3 1761 11552557 8